

the fight against Germany, Italy and Japan. In **the** peak year, 1943, there were 38,762 workers at **the** yard. **The** shipyard lay on **the** Columbia River, just downstream from today's Marine Park. It produced baby flattops, tank-landing craft and Liberty cargo ships. **The** first ship, **the** S.S. George Vancouver, was launched July 4, 1942. **The** last ship was outfitted in May 1946. From **the** yard came 141 ships and a health care system, Kaiser Permanente, which still serves **the** public today.

On Nov. 24, 1971, a Thanksgiving eve, a man giving **the** name Dan Cooper hijacked a Northwest Orient flight from Portland to Seattle. He collected parachutes and \$200,000 in ransom money in Seattle and parachuted out somewhere over Ariel into a cold, rainy night. He's never been found. But in 1978, an 8-year-old Vancouver boy uncovered \$5,800 **of** Cooper's loot on a Columbia River beach near Frenchman's Bar.

On May 18, 1980, **the** largest landslide in recorded **history** uncorked a gas-charged reservoir **of** magma from Mount St. Helens. **The** eruption leveled 230 square miles **of** forest, killed 57 people and shot a plume **of** ash 15 miles high and around **the** globe.

In 1982, Glenn Jackson Bridge linked Interstate 205 between Portland and Cascade Park, setting **the** stage for rapid growth in what became east Vancouver.

In 1997, Vancouver annexed Cascade Park and other areas east **of** I-205, almost doubling **the** city's population to 123,300.

In 2007, **the** city's population reached 160,800 and maintained its position as **the** fourth-largest city in Washington after Seattle, Tacoma and Spokane.

Zachary Kaufman/**The Columbian**

Bernice Pluchos stands next to an exhibit **of** artifacts at **the** Two Rivers Historical Museum in Washougal.